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CITRUS

APRIL FORECAST

MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE



FLORIDA
AGRICULTURE

April 8, 2005

ALL ORANGES NOW 151.2 MILLION BOXES

The USDA Agricultural Statistics Board forecast of Florida orange production is lowered 1.8 million boxes from last month to 151.2 million boxes. The adjustment is in the early-midseason-Navel portion where harvest is almost over. The forecast of the Valencia portion, where harvest is getting underway, is maintained at 72.0 million boxes. If realized, all orange utilization will be almost 91 million boxes, or 38 percent, less than the previous season's near record crop.

In the past 10 seasons, the April forecast has differed from final production by an average of 1.5 million boxes with four seasons higher and six lower. Final utilization may differ from these forecasts because of the assumptions made about fruit sizing and loss from droppage following the hurricanes this past summer.

EARLY-MID-NAVELS ADJUSTED TO 79.2 MILLION BOXES

The early-midseason-Navel forecast of utilization (including 1.5 million boxes of gift fruit and local sales) is decreased to 79.2 million boxes. Harvest is almost complete with weekly utilization decreasing rapidly. The Row Count survey conducted March 30-31 indicates less than 3 percent of rows remaining to be harvested. Because of the heavy droppage and warm weather, usability of fruit from these rows is questionable.

CITRUS PRODUCTION, APRIL 1, 2005

FORECASTS BY VARIETIES AND STATES, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2002-03	2003-04	Mar 10, 2005	Apr 8, 2005

--- 1,000 boxes ---

EARLY, MIDSEASON, AND NAVAL ORANGES:

FLORIDA	112,000	126,000	81,000	79,200
California	42,000	38,000	44,000	43,000
Texas	1,350	1,420	1,500	1,750
Arizona	200	300	240	240
Total Above Varieties	155,550	165,720	126,740	124,190

VALENCIAS:

FLORIDA	91,000	116,000	72,000	72,000
California	20,000	14,000	20,000	18,000
Texas	220	230	250	230
Arizona	270	170	190	190
Total Valencias	111,490	130,400	92,440	90,420

ALL ORANGES:

FLORIDA	203,000	242,000	153,000	151,200
California	62,000	52,000	64,000	61,000
Texas	1,570	1,650	1,750	1,980
Arizona	470	470	430	430
Total All Oranges	267,040	296,120	219,180	214,610

FORECAST DATES 2004-05 SEASON

May 12, 2005

June 10, 2005

July 12, 2005

The difference between the current forecast and the initial one in October is almost 13 million boxes. About 8 million boxes of the difference is attributable to the extremely high droppage caused by the hurricanes last summer. The December drop average was the highest since these surveys began in 1960. Average fruit size was smaller than all but one of the last 10 seasons.

The Navel portion of the forecast is maintained at 2.5 million boxes. Harvest is complete. The allocation of non-certified fruit is estimated at only slightly more than 500,000 boxes this season, down from 1.0 million allocated in previous seasons and in October 2004.

SURVEY COMPONENTS USED IN THE FORECAST ^{1/}

Type	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
	(1,000)			
Early-mid	31,999	863	18	263
Navel	1,862	249	21	138
Valencia	41,208	529	24	215

^{1/} November survey data is considered final for Navels, December for early-mids, and March for Valencias.

VALENCIAS 72.0 MILLION BOXES

The Valencia forecast is maintained at 72.0 million boxes. The final month objective forecast surveys indicated slightly larger sizes than anticipated last month and the same droppage. Average fruit sizes are the smallest since the 1992-93 season. Average droppage is the highest since the 1990-91 season. Harvest is underway with the Row Count survey indicating about 15 percent of the rows harvested.

FCOJ YIELD 1.58 GALLONS PER BOX

The all orange projected FCOJ yield remains at 1.58 gallons per box. As reported by the Florida Citrus Processors Association, the early-mid portion is final at 1.529196 gallons per box. The projection of the Valencia portion remains at 1.66 gallons. Last season's final yield for all oranges was 1.56 gallons per box.

ALL GRAPEFRUIT REMAINS AT 13 MILLION BOXES

The Florida forecast of all grapefruit for certified utilization (including an allocation of 700,000 boxes of gift fruit and local sales) is maintained at 13.0 million boxes. However, the components have changed this month, bringing the white grapefruit up to 3.5 million boxes and the colored varieties down to 9.5 million boxes. If realized, this forecast will be 68 percent less than harvested last season and the lowest since the 1935-36 season. Assumptions are made based on the fruit per tree number published in the October forecast. Final utilization could differ from the forecast if the fruit per tree due to initial fruit loss from the hurricanes is different than projected.

Utilization to April 1 in conjunction with the Row Count survey conducted on March 30-31, 2005 is the primary indicator for the April grapefruit forecast. Follow up size and drop surveys completed last month indicated a high drop rate on the rows of grapefruit remaining for harvest.

The **white** grapefruit forecast is raised 500,000 boxes to 3.5 million boxes, including an allocation of 200,000 boxes for other use. Estimated utilization through April 1 is 2.9 million boxes, with approximately 20 percent of the route

survey rows unharvested. Consideration is given for the high drop rate in the remaining rows left to be harvested.

The **colored** grapefruit forecast is lowered 500,000 boxes to 9.5 million boxes, including an allocation of 500,000 for other use. Estimated utilization through April 1 is 7.8 million boxes, with 90 percent of the route survey rows harvested. Harvesting is running fairly equal between fresh and processing. Consideration concerning the amount left to be harvested has been made given the condition of the remaining rows.

SURVEY COMPONENTS USED IN THE FORECAST ^{1/}

Type	Bearing trees	Fruit per tree	Percent droppage	Fruit per box
	(1,000)			
White Grapefruit ^{2/}	2,861	109	22	86
Colored Grapefruit	5,366	210	26	97

^{1/} January survey data is considered final.

^{2/} Seedless variety only.

CITRUS PRODUCTION, APRIL 1, 2005

FORECASTS BY VARIETIES AND STATES, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	2002-03	2003-04	Mar 10, 2005	Apr 8, 2005
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Grapefruit:				
FLORIDA-All	38,700	40,900	13,000	13,000
White	16,200	15,900	3,000	3,500
Colored	22,500	25,000	10,000	9,500
Texas	5,650	5,700	6,200	6,500
Arizona	130	140	180	160
California	5,600	5,400	5,300	5,400
Total Grapefruit	50,080	52,140	24,680	25,060
Lemons:				
California	24,000	18,000	19,500	19,500
Arizona	3,000	3,000	2,400	2,400
Total Lemons	27,000	21,000	21,900	21,900
Temples: Florida	1,300	1,400	700	650
Tangelos: Florida	2,350	1,000	1,400	1,550
Tangerines:				
FLORIDA-All	5,500	6,500	4,500	4,450
Early ^{1/}	3,000	3,600	2,500	2,450
Honey	2,500	2,900	2,000	2,000
California ^{2/}	2,800	2,700	2,900	3,000
Arizona ^{2/}	430	690	450	400
Total Tangerines	8,730	9,890	7,850	7,850

^{1/} Fallglo and Sunburst varieties.

^{2/} Includes tangelos.

ALL TANGERINES REDUCED TO 4.45 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all tangerines is lowered to 4.45 million boxes. The forecast for the early varieties (**Fallglo and Sunburst**) is lowered to 2.45 million boxes and the later maturing **Honey** variety remains at 2.0 million boxes.

The forecast of utilization for early tangerines is lowered to 2.45 million boxes. **Fallglo** tangerine harvest is complete at 650,000 boxes including other use. The reduction in early tangerines is due to a decrease in the **Sunburst** variety, also completely harvested, with an estimated utilization to April 1 of 1.8 million boxes, including other use.

The **Honey** tangerine forecast, unchanged since January, is 2.0 million boxes. Utilization to April 1 is 1.6 million boxes with 64 percent rows harvested. Drop surveys completed in February indicated a 67 percent drop rate on the final rows to be harvested.

TEMPLES LOWERED TO 650,000 BOXES

The Temple forecast is decreased to 650,000 boxes. Utilization for Temples is 630,000 boxes compared to 1.3 million boxes this time last year. With weekly harvest now below 10,000 boxes, Temples are relatively complete. If attained, this year's crop will be the smallest amount since the forecasting of Temples began in the 1953-54 season.

TANGELOS RAISED TO 1.55 MILLION BOXES

Tangelos increased to 1.55 million boxes, or 50,000 more boxes than last month's forecast. Tangelos are relatively complete with estimated utilization to April 1 at 1.55 million boxes.

**UNADJUSTED MATURITY TESTS: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample groves,
2003-04 and 2004-05 seasons**

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05
	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Percent</i>				<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Pounds</i>	

Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.

ORANGES:

LATE (119-119)

Oct 1	2.04	2.45	8.92	8.63	4.42	3.57	46.39	46.24	4.14	3.99
Nov 1	1.66	1.93	9.56	8.84	5.82	4.61	50.88	50.37	4.87	4.45
Dec 1	1.41	1.57	10.38	9.72	7.44	6.24	53.33	53.14	5.54	5.16
Jan 1	1.27	1.40	11.14	10.43	8.83	7.50	53.16	54.01	5.92	5.63
Feb 1	1.20	1.24	11.90	10.98	10.04	8.94	51.94	54.75	6.18	6.02
Mar 1	1.07	1.12	12.67	11.91	11.92	10.70	52.58	54.84	6.67	6.53
Apr 1	0.96	0.98	12.84	12.06	13.51	12.37	51.31	54.78	6.59	6.61

NOTICE: All samples were run through an FMC 091 machine using mechanical pressure only. This machine utilizes a .040 short strainer and standard 5/8-inch orifice tube. The beam settings are also identical to past tests and nor restrictions are used.

MATURITY TEST AVERAGES BY AREAS, APRIL 1, 2005

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
ORANGES:						
LATE						
Indian River Dist.	18	0.97	11.95	12.33	56.20	6.72
Other Areas	101	0.99	12.08	12.37	54.52	6.59

FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

Size frequency distributions from the March size survey are shown in the table below. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. Fruit sizes were measured on trees in sample groves during the period March 15 through 25, 2005. Comparable sizes for 2003 and 2004 are also shown. These measurements are of fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom in all seasons.

**FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from
March measurements**

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	2003	2004	2005
--- Percent ---			
VALENCIA ORANGES:			
64 and larger	19.8	11.0	4.7
80	36.9	30.3	22.6
100	32.4	38.5	43.1
125	9.2	16.2	23.0
163 and smaller	1.7	4.0	6.6

The chart on the right compares the relationship of the March 2005 Valencia orange fruit size measurements with those taken in March 2004. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest value.

CHART 1: Valencia orange size frequency by diameter from March measurements.

